

REMARKS

The Specification has been amended. Claims 1 - 5, 7, 9 - 12, 14 - 20, 22 - 24, and 26 remain in the application.

Paragraph 2 of the Office Action dated November 2, 2005 (hereinafter, "the Office Action") states that Claims 1 - 5, 7, 9 - 12, 14 - 20, 22 - 24, and 26 (which comprise all claims currently presented in the application) are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson et al. (U.S. 5,325,310) and further in view of Kasajima (U. S. 2002/0178224).

In response, Applicants submit herewith the enclosed Declaration of Fact Under 37 C.F.R. §1.131 from all of the named inventors. This declaration demonstrates that the claimed invention was conceived and reduced to practice prior to May 23, 2001, the priority date of Kasajima. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the declaration overcomes the §103 rejections based on Kasajima pursuant to MPEP 715.02.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references fail to teach all limitations of their claimed invention. With regard to dependent Claims 2, 9, and 10, for example, Page 3 of the Office Action admits that Johnson in view of Kasajima fail to disclose allowing the message recipient to suppress/delay the requiring step within the time period of the time sensitivity. Instead, for this so-called "snooze" feature, the Examiner states that this would have been an obvious modification, "for the benefit of the recipient". Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner either cite prior art, or provide an Examiner's affidavit to establish a

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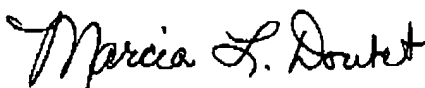
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basis for this assertion.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is allowable over the art of record, and request that the application be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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